

## How To Reach Agreement on Major Decisions

### ➤ What Couple Decision Making Means

1. That both spouses talk over \_\_\_\_\_ decisions that affect both \_\_\_\_\_ either makes up his/her own mind about the matter
2. That both spouses discuss and agree on decisions that affect both before \_\_\_\_\_ others or \_\_\_\_\_ on a decision
3. That a satisfactory solution is reached that can be \_\_\_\_\_ by both
4. That the goal becomes \_\_\_\_\_ and building couple oneness.
  - a. What would God have us do?
  - b. Will this increase our oneness?

*Proverbs 3:5-6 – Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight [will direct your paths].*

### ➤ How Do/Should Couples Make Decisions

From list below mark the top three that couples in general use to make decisions together. Then list the top three that Christian couples should use. Mark the first ones with an “F” and the second with “A”

1. Other believer’s advice
2. Logic/Reason
3. Impressions in prayer
4. Circumstances/situations (open or closed doors)
5. Emotions or feelings about the decision
6. Scripture (Commands, Promises, Biblical principles/examples)
7. Advice from experts

### ➤ Negotiate Decisions As A Team —

To help you make decisions as a team, here are some steps we have found helpful:

1. **Pray together for God’s \_\_\_\_\_**, submitting your wills to Him. Philippians 4:6 — *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*
2. **Release your \_\_\_\_\_**. Philippians 2:3 — *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*
3. **Maintain an attitude of mutual \_\_\_\_\_**: to God and to one another. James 4:7a — *Submit yourselves, then, to God.* Ephesians 5:21 — *Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*
4. **Search \_\_\_\_\_ for direction.** Psalm 119:105 — *Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*  
Walking by faith requires a \_\_\_\_\_ to stand on. → Our decisions **MUST** have some basis in Word. (see Matt. 14:28,29 WHEN Peter go out of boat)
5. **Ask godly \_\_\_\_\_** (someone you respect) to help you discover together all the options open to you. Proverbs 19:20 — *Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.*
6. **Compile a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ list.** Luke 14:28 — *Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?*

7. **Wait for God's \_\_\_\_\_.** Proverbs 19:2 — *It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be **hasty** and miss the way.* Psalm 37:34a — ***Wait for the Lord*** and keep his way.

When Jesus quoted Genesis 2, He said, “*Haven't you read...that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?*” Then He added this little phrase, *So they are no longer two, but one.* You are a team, Jesus says so Himself.

➤ **Conclusion**

*Now that you know these things, DO THEM. That is the path of blessing. (John 13:17 LB)*

➤ **Couple Sharing Questions**

1. Do we need to change any of our decision-making practices? Which ones?
2. What can we do to make sure our decisions are ones we can both OWN?
3. Case Study:

Pretend this couple is coming to you for advice: A Christian husband and wife have lived in the same town for 10 years and are very active in their church. The husband has a fine position with a good company, but he does not like his work. He has been offered another position — 3,000 miles away in a colder climate. He wants to accept the position because it is the type of work he has always wanted to do. He talks with his wife and tells her he is thinking of taking the job. She does not want him to accept it and gives her reasons. She says she definitely won't move. What would you advise them to do? Discuss and see if you can reach agreement on what your advice will be.

4. Hold hands and pray together: “Lord, we want to be more like you. You showed us how to be servants. We want to be your servants and servants to one another. Help us make decisions based on your will and what will bring us closer to each other. And help us make decisions Your way. In Jesus name, Amen.”